Rs. 765.24 crore to mitigate the distress of farmers in three indentified suicide prone districts namely, Wayanad, Palakkad and Kasaragod of Kerala. Details of financial assistance provided by the Government of India to Kerala as on 31st January, 2008 under the above mentioned rehabilitation package are as under:

(*Rs. in Crore*)

Identified activities under the package	Releases by Central Govt.
Interest Waiver	109.47
Major and Medium Irrigation	2.72
Seed Replacement Programme	1.32
Horticulture Development	29.39
Micro Irrigation	6.36
Extension Services	1.17
Subsidiary Income	23.27
Prime Minister's National Relief Fund	1.50
TOTAL	175.20

Under Seed Replacement Programme, 15405.50 qtls. of quality seeds have been distributed to the farmers of the three identified district of Kerala involving financial outlay of Rs. 1.32 crore.

Shortage of fertilizers

†*130. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a shortage of fertilizers for farmers in some States during the last year;

(b) if so, the steps taken to ensure the timely availability of fertilizers to farmers in future;

(c) whether Government is framing new urea policy to meet the shortage of fertilizers; and

(d) if so, whether Government would restart those fertilizer plants which had been closed earlier, alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The availability of fertilizers in the country during the last year *i.e.* Kharif 2007 and current Rabi season 2007-08 has been adequate to meet the assessed requirement/sustain sales.

50% of indigenous production of urea is under movement and distribution control of Government. The supply of indigenous urea alongwith adequate and timely imports has ensured adequate availability in each State corresponding to the assessed requirement during the season.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

In so far as de-controlled fertilizers like Di-ammonia Phosphate, Muriate of Potash and complex fertilizer (which are combination of Nitrogen, Phosphate and Potash elements) are concerned, the responsibility for meeting the requirement is with the concerned State Governments. Reduced availability of phosphatic raw materials and intermediates in the international market has impacted indigenous production during the season. The tight availability of finished fertilizer products in the international market as well as high price has been a disincentive for import of these fertilizers by the traditional fertilizer suppliers. State Governments were advised as far back as May, 2007 to nominate a State Institutional Agency which would place firm orders for import of de-controlled fertilizer, particularly DAP to meet the assessed requirement in each State. The Government of India have arranged for imports to meet the requirement in various States. As a result, the availability in the states has been adequate to sustain sales.

The following steps have been taken by the Government to ensure adequate and timely availability of fertilizers in the country.

i. Each State Government is required to make a month-wise and company-wise supply plan for each district in the State;

ii. The subsidy is released to the fertilizer manufacturers/suppliers only on reaching the fertilizer to each District in conformity with the approved supply plan;

iii. A web based Fertilizer Monitoring System (FMS) has been introduced to direct movement of fertilizer from various ports/plants to the various Districts so as to monitor the receipts with reference to the supply plan;

iv. The freight reimbursed to urea units is being made on actual rail/road leads to ensure that there are no under recovery as far as fertilizer companies are concerned for movement and distribution of urea throughout the country; and

v. With a view to ensure availability of de-controlled phosphatic and potassic fertilizer, State Governments have been advised to identify at least one State Institutional Agency which would arrange for timely availability of these fertilizers in their respective States.

(c) The Government is in the process of finalizing a pricing policy for new investments in urea sector in order to promote investment and consequently increase the availability of urea.

(d) Pursuant to a decision taken on 12th April, 2007, the Government is in the process of reviving the closed units of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited at Gorakhpur, Ramagundam, Talcher, Sindri and Korba and those of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited at Baruni, Durgapur and Haldia subject to availability of feestock.

Rise in the prices of edible oil

*131. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether edible oil prices and palm oil prices in various parts of the country have gone up in domestic market;

(b) if so, whether the prices have gone up by Rs. 1.5 per kg for all edible oils since December, 2007 and in Mumbai local markets the palm oil prices are ruling at Rs. 525/- per *10 kg: and*